

## THE BEMINISCENCES OF CARL SCHURZ

opinions as to how the striking change in President Johnson's attitude had been brought about. Some told me that during the summer the White House had been fairly besieged by Southern men and women of high social standing who had told the President that the only element of trouble in the South consisted in a lot of fanatical abolitionists who excited the negroes with all sorts of dangerous notions, and that all would be well if he would only restore the Southern State governments as quickly as possible, according to his own plan as laid down in his North Carolina proclamation, and that he was a great man to whom they looked up as their savior. "Now it was thought that Mr. Johnson, the plebeian, who, before the war had been treated with undisguised contempt by the slave-holding aristocracy, could not withstand the subtle flattery of the same aristocracy when they flocked around him as humble sup-  
pliants cajoling his vanity.

Another opinion was that Mr. Seward, who had remained Secretary of State after Lincoln's death, had used all the powers of his persuasive eloquence to satisfy President Johnson that all now to be done was simply to restore the Union by at once re-admitting the " States lately in rebellion " to their full constitutional functions as regular States of the Union, and that then, being encouraged by this mark of confidence, the late master class in the South could be trusted with the recogni-

tion and protection of the emancipated slaves.  
That Mr.  
Seward urged such advice upon the President,  
there is good  
reason for believing. Not only was it common  
report, but it  
accorded also strikingly with Mr. Seward's  
singular turn of  
mind concerning the slavery question. As after  
the outbreak  
of the secession movement he peremptorily  
relegated the  
slavery question to the background in spite of its  
evident im-  
portance in the Civil War and of the influence it  
would inevi-